

DIVISION: FORMS 1 to 4AGE GROUP: 12 years plus.SERIES CURRENT AFFAIRSPROGRAMME (6) "DIVALI"RECORDING:TRANSMISSION: Wednesday, 4th November, 1964OPR:

NARR: Hello boys and girls,

In many parts of Guyana last night/it was very beautiful. There were hundreds of thousands little lights flickering - on steps of houses, in houses and sometimes in yards. In Georgetown many houses had fairy lights hanging in their windows and the people in those houses were in a very gay mood. Now, can you tell me why there were all these lights? Yes. It was to celebrate the Hindu Festival of Diwali. The word Diwali really means ^{a string} little lights. But why do Hindus celebrate the Festival of lights? What does it mean? Well strangely enough, children, the Festival of Diwali has many meanings. Let's see if we can find out some of them.

Some Hindus say that Diwali is the Festival of the Goddess Lakshmi. She is the mother of all men and women and of all living things. To honour her/fruits and sweets are put in the temples and lights are lit - for you see lights are signs of happiness and gladness - So the Hindus light up their houses just as at Christmas we put fairy lights on ^{almost everywhere} our houses and ^{then} on our Christmas Trees ^{to show our happiness}.

But there's another reason given for Diwali. There's a legend which says that long, long ago there was a very

/powerful King.....

powerful King whose name was Bali. Bali means strenght - And so powerful was he that he conquered every bit of the earth. But he was a cruel ruler and his ^{People} subjects were afraid of him. One day he decided to show some charity - to give a few things to the poor. When Bali had given alms and food to all the beggars there appeared one ugly little dwarf who asked the King for a special favour. King Bali was curious. What would the ^{dwarf} beggar want? The dwarf said that all he wanted was three paces of earth - After all, if Bali owned the whole earth he could give the dwarf three small paces, So Bali agreed. But he had a surprise coming to him. For the Dwarf was Vishnu the Supreme God of Heaven. *And suddenly Vishnu grew in size until he was a giant* And in one pace Vishnu covered the earth - so Bali lost his Kingdom. In the second he covered the sky. In the third Vishnu stepped on Bali's crown - so Bali lost everything. But this meant that good had won over evil. And the people ^{the} of/earth to celebrate the occasion put on all the lights they had to show that Light or Goodness in Vishnu had conquered Evil or darkness in Bali.

There is yet another story to explain Diwali. There was a cruel King called Narkasura. He was especially cruel to women and made everyone unhappy. At last Lord Knishna who was god in human form killed this demon King. Kishna was assisted by his wife when he killed the King. They made all women - and all men too - free from fear. And the people put out all their little oil lamps to show Knishna how grateful they were for what he did.

There are stories to explain why Hindus celebrate Diwali. But some Hindus say that there is really a very simple reason.

It's this. About.....

It's this! About this time in India every year¹ people have just finished picking their Autumn crops. ^{It is harvest time.} They have lots of food and oil in their houses. So they feel happy, for they know that they will not go without food for many months to come. Therefore they use some of the oil they have¹ to light up their houses to show thanks to the gods ~~for~~ the harvest.

Boys and girls, whatever the reason,

OPR:

MUSIC BREAK

NARR:

Boys and girls whatever the reason, Diwali is a very beautiful festival. Clusters of lights always look very pretty. You can almost say, that Guyana has two festivals of lights. Do you know what the other one is? Of course you do. It's Christmas. You remember a moment ago we said that at Christmas we put fairy lights on our Christmas Trees? ^{For children believe that Jesus, the light of the world} And have you noticed that the two festivals come ^{very} ~~very~~ close together. This year Diwali is in November and ^{at Christmas} Christmas, of course, is in December. That is what makes Guyana a very interesting place to live in. We have so many festivals. Some come from the christian religion like Christmas, Easter Whitsuntide. Some come from the Muslim religion like Eid. And some come from the Hindu religion like Diwali and Pagwah. And nowadays, boys and girls, not only some Guyanese but almost all Guyanese are taking part in these festivals. And of course you are enjoying them a great deal because you have school holidays whenever they are celebrated.

/Nowadays too.....

Nowadays, too, these festivals are often celebrated with plays and fairs where men and women, boys and girls, wear their colourful costumes and do the dances and sing the songs of the places their ancestors came from.

So Guyana gets more and more of the mixing of ways of dining, dancing and singing. And when these things become more and more popular with all Guyanese we shall all be doing them - we shall all be borrowing from one another as we have done with our foods. So you should all try to find out more and more about the various festivals. You should try to find out what they mean and try to understand the songs that are sung and the dances. Then you will be able to take part in all the festivals and you will certainly find it very nice to do that.

For a start you could take the festival of Diwali which was celebrated yesterday. Try to find out as much as you can~~x~~ about the origin of the Festival. Of course you too will get different stories but you would naturally select the one which appears to you to be the best.

^{long}
So/then, until next week.

OPR:

PLAY THEME: